

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Entry of the enclosed eight Replacement Sheets bearing Figures 1-14 is respectfully requested. The enclosed drawings include lines and reference numerals that are neither rough nor blurred.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claims 22-41 were previously pending in the application. By the present Amendment A, Claims 22 and 27-30 are currently amended and Claims 23-26 and 31-41 remain unchanged.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that Claims 35-38 include allowable subject matter. Rewriting of Claims 35-38 is being held in abeyance pending outcome of the examination following entry of the present amendment.

Applicants also gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's granting of an interview on January 10, 2007. During the interview, Claim 22 was discussed and an agreement was reached wherein the applicant agreed to provide claim amendments to add structural limitations to bring out the significance of the monobloc housing floor. Such amendments will be discussed in greater detail hereinafter.

By the above official action, the Examiner has identified several informalities with respect to the application.

Initially, the Examiner notes that the title of the invention is not descriptive and that a new title is required. By the present amendment, the applicant has provided a new, more descriptive title for the present application.

The Examiner also noted that the drawings filed on January 24, 2006 are objected to because the lines and reference numerals are assertedly rough and non-uniform. By the present amendment, the applicant has provided eight Replacement Sheets comprising Figures 1-14 for entry in the present application.

Entry of the replacement sheets should render the objection to the drawings moot.

Claims 29-38 are rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph as being assertedly indefinite. More specifically, Claim 30 includes the term "said functional element" without antecedent basis. Claim dependency of Claim 30 has been changed to provide adequate antecedent basis for the term "said functional element". Additionally, the phrase "such as an induction mechanism carrier, a cool-air fan or an electronic control unit" is assertedly vague and indefinite as it is uncertain if the limitations after "such as" are parts of the claimed structure. As suggested by the Examiner, the phrase "such as" has been changed to "comprising", which should alleviate any asserted indefiniteness.

Regarding Claims 33-38 the term "said induction mechanism carrier" lacks positive antecedent basis and it is asserted that is therefore not a positive claimed structure. Claim 33 has been amended to provide adequate antecedent basis for the induction mechanism carrier. Finally, in Claim 29, the use of "preferably" in a phrase at Line 4 is assertedly vague and indefinite. Claim 29 has been extensively amended to recite positive claimed structure.

Based on the above, all of the informalities addressed by the Examiner have been corrected and it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 29-38 under § 112, second paragraph be withdrawn, and that all objections to the title, abstract and drawings also be withdrawn.

Substantively, Claims 22-34 and 39-41 stand rejected until 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over Blumenthal, German patent DE19604436 (Blumenthal DE436), in view of Gaspard US Patent No. 5,665,263 (Gaspard '263) or Simon US Patent No. 4,549,052 (Simon '052). The applicant respectfully traverses these alternate rejections and submits to the contrary that the present

invention is not obvious in light of any of the cited prior references, taking singly or in any combination.

As discussed during the interview, the Element 15 in the Gaspard '263 patent and Element 18 in the Simon '052 patent are neither one housing floors as recited in the present application. Therefore, a combination of Blumenthal '436 and either Gaspard '263 or Simon '052 will not result in the claimed invention.

Further, during the interview it was discussed that the monobloc housing floor of the present invention is formed with several functional elements that are structural features of the housing floor not found in any of the cited references. Accordingly, Claim 22 has been amended to further recite the structure of the present invention by noting that the housing floor is formed with predetermined structural features formed as functional elements in relief with the functional elements being for placement and mounting of hob components. The dependent claims further illustrate the functional elements and describe their use and relationship to the housing floor.

The use of such integral functional elements provides the advantage that both the housing and the additionally required functional elements, such as fastening elements for mounting current cables, can be made by a single working procedure. Material expenditures, manufacturing expense and manufacturing costs can be reduced thereby. (Paragraph 0026). Not only can the housing floor be manufactured in a few working steps with a high degree of precision, adaptation can occur through the correspondingly adapted injection molded parts. The adapted shaping decreases the danger of the housing warping due to thermal stress or due to mechanical tension. (Paragraph 0025). Accordingly, the surface relief provided by the molded functional elements increases the resistance of the housing floor to twist or otherwise deform under use.

With reference to Figure 5 the functional elements provided include a trunion 11, locking elements 19, table mountings 35, locking element 47 and cool

air baffles 57. These functional elements formed in the housing floor enable the number of overall components to be reduced. (Paragraph 0050).

By the above, it can be seen that there is adequate support in the specification for the amended claims presented by the present amendment.

It is therefore respectfully asserted that the present invention as recited in amended Independent Claim 22 is not obvious in light of any of the cited references, taking singly or in any combination and it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection under 35 USC § 103 be withdrawn. Claims 23-41 all ultimately depend from Claim 22 and are allowable for the same reasons and also because they recite additional patentable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of Claims 22-41 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. It is therefore respectfully requested that the present application be allowed and passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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